

Varieties of Religious Orientations Amongst the Malay/Muslims in Southeast Asia and the Prospect of Muslim Personal Law Reform



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Abstract

This presentation highlights some of the major problems confronting the Muslim law and legal systems of the Malays in Southeast Asia. While dominant discourse on the problems is strongly conditioned by the culturalist perspective which makes Islam the issue, this paper maintains that the crux of the problem lies in the styles of thought or modes of thinking of dominant social agencies. Two dominant styles of thought that has impacted the selection, perception and operation of the Muslim law are religious traditionalism and revivalism. Their salient traits, factors that condition their prevalence, their dynamics and manifestations will be examined. This presentation maintains that these modes of thinking adversely impede the development of the law in significant areas and impair prospects for review, re-evaluation and reform of the law where necessary. The relevance of the modernization of the law as well as the challenges that confront this imperative will be discussed.

Biodata:

Noor Aisha Abdul Rahman is an Associate Professor and Deputy Head at the Department of Malay Studies, National University of Singapore. Her research areas include Malay legal history and institutions, Muslim law and its administration in Southeast Asia and the sociology of religion (Islam and Malay religious orientations). She has contributed a number of works on Malay law and issues on Muslim women and modernization.



You are welcome!



Please register your interest to attend this seminar to Ms Saripah Basir (saripah.basir@nie.edu.sg). For further information, please contact the Convenor, Jalinan Budi Seminar Series, Dr Mukhlis Abu Bakar (mukhlis.abubakar@nie.edu.sg).